

**U.S. Comments on Draft Texts of the Code Chapter 2.1.1, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) of the OIE *International Animal Health Code***

**(Submitted to the OIE on May 8, 2002)**

The United States would like the Animal Health Code Commission to consider the following comments:

Our first comment relates to the process by which the current Chapter for adoption was presented to the Member countries. Unlike other Chapters, the FMD Chapter was made available to Member countries in February. Other Chapters for other diseases were presented to Members in October, thereby allowing time to comment. Such Chapters, if presented for the first time, were sent out for “consideration”. Not only was the current Chapter presented to us in February, but was also sent forward as a Chapter for adoption rather than for consideration. The United States, therefore, requests that the Chapter be withdrawn from adoption and submitted for consideration. The Animal Health Code Commission should be open to receive comments on this Chapter until its December meeting.

As with any Chapter which is undergoing significant change, such changes must be supported by sound technical documentation. We, therefore, request that the OIE provide the technical review that supports the proposed changes to the Chapter.

Having said this, the United States does support the concept of “FMD virus infection” and would be amenable to adopting Article 2.1.1.1 of Chapter 2.1.1 which defines FMD virus infection. However, due to the lack of existing clarity and the resulting misunderstanding, at this time, we are not prepared to support all other proposed changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Fernández  
Associate Administrator  
United States of America